

the world's strongest and greatest in the history of the world.

Since 1789, the Constitution has served as our country's legal foundation. Its wisdom is timeless, and just as George Washington called the Constitution the guide he would never abandon, we should not abandon the brilliance of our Founders' intent.

The Constitution establishes the United States of America as a nation of laws where the government derives its limited powers from "We the People," the consenting governed. Those words, I believe, Mr. Speaker, are the most important words outside our Bible.

Thanks to the foresight of the Constitution's Framers and their understanding of government overreach and human nature, we have an abiding document that checks the power of the Federal Government and protects the rights of individual citizens.

What has happened with our government, though, is that it has expanded in such a manner that it flips the Constitution on its head. Let's take a look at Articles I through III, which outline the powers of each branch of government.

In this pocket copy of the Constitution, Article I is eight pages; but it is, by far, the longest of the articles, detailing the powers of the Congress.

Article II is only three pages, outlining the powers of the executive branch.

Article III is only a half page and establishes the limited powers of the judicial branch.

Now, what has happened is that the relative power of each branch is completely inverted. The power to write the law and thereby represent the will of the people has been diminished by both the executive and judicial branches.

The judicial branch seeks to write the law through its power of interpretation in setting precedent. The judicial branch has become an instrument for activists to pass agendas that could not be accomplished by passing laws in Congress because they lacked the support of the majority of people in the country.

Rather than serving as the least powerful branch of government that acts as a check, the judicial branch has taken the power delegated to Congress and become a much more powerful branch than ever intended.

The executive branch has promulgated rules which have the force of law and have circumvented the lawmaking process of Article I, thwarting again the grand design of the Constitution.

These trends must stop and the plan of the Constitution reasserted. The Constitution is genius in its brevity, in its endurance, and in its forethought to limit and separate the governing powers established therein. It is an honor and a sacred duty for me to protect and uphold the Constitution in representing the people of the Fifth District here in this Congress.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Rosalinda Rivera, New Life Outreach Church, Richmond, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we come before You this day with grateful hearts for this wonderful Nation we live in. For our Senators, our Congressmen and -women, our President, for their families, bless them as they sacrificially lead us as a Nation.

We lift up those today that are imprisoned by a lifestyle of addiction, trapped in the trenches of hopelessness. Your Word says that if we are in a pit, You will lift us up and put our feet on a rock.

So we cry out on behalf of our husbands, our wives, our sisters, our brothers, for the young people of America that are trapped by the pit of opioid addiction and sex trafficking.

You are the God of hope and healing. So, in Your name, I declare the chains of addiction are broken. I declare freedom in the hearts of every person fighting addiction. Through You, our God, we have the victory.

Thank You for always being faithful. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KENNEDY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR ROSALINDA RIVERA

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BRAT) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BRAT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Rosalinda Rivera, and her friends, of Chesterfield County, Virginia, to the House Chamber today.

As an associate pastor at the New Life Outreach Church, the church her parents, Carmen and Victor Torres founded in 1972, she has helped reach those who are in search of a better way of life.

In addition to her role in the church, she is involved in many other organizations to serve those in need. Whether it is helping young people overcome the challenges of addiction at New Life for Youth, helping young mothers restore relationships with their children at Mercy Mom's House, or inspiring groups all over the U.S. with her writing and ministry, her service has been one spent devoted to the service of others.

She has turned the lives of countless people around, giving them faith, hope, and purpose. Her work is a testament to the Judeo-Christian tradition, which calls all people to love and care for others in the same way that God loves and cares for each of us.

Thank you, Rosalinda, and God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PALMER). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING TRIYOUNG ON AMERICAN BUSINESS WOMEN'S DAY

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize TriYoung, a woman-owned business in Peoria, Arizona, on American Business Women's Day on September 22.

In August, I visited businesses across Arizona's Eighth District to discuss how reduced Federal regulations, pro-growth policies, and Republican-led tax reform have impacted business owners and employees.

For Julie Young, president of TriYoung, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act has produced a sizeable savings that she plans to reinvest back into her employees.